

MINUTES

of the 23rd Meeting of the Baltic Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)

Vilnius (Lithuania), 2-3 October 2024

1. The 23rd Meeting of the Baltic Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) was hosted by the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 2-3 October, 2024.
2. Experts from four member states of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN took part in the meeting: Estonia, Latvia, Poland and Lithuania. The representatives from the State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre kindly joined the meeting as observers by invitation. The hybrid meeting was attended by 60 participants, including representatives of local government units of Lithuania.
3. The participants of the meeting exchanged information and experience on the status of work on national standardization of geographical names, carried out in their countries including an overview of legislative and organizational frameworks; the status of updates of national geographical names (endonyms, exonyms); use of geographical names by national registries and Information Systems, place names collection and update; linguistic aspects related to geographical names, issues in using geographical names in minority languages, etc.
4. 14 topic presentations were demonstrated and discussed.
5. The next 24th meeting of the Baltic Division will be organized in autumn of 2025 or in spring of 2026 in Latvia.
6. Participants recommended the countries to link all objects of national gazetteers to their locations (to assign coordinates), also aim to continue integrating data of geographical names into national and international repositories (registries).
7. Participants decided to publish presentations and other documents of the 23rd meeting of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN on the website <http://eki.ee/knn/ungegn>
8. Representatives of the participating countries expressed a desire for further communication, join initiatives, exchange experience and to share best practice on UNGEGN and Geographical names related matters.
9. Participants elected Saulius Urbanas from Lithuania as the chair of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN from 3rd May 2025 and agreed to elect a representative from Estonia as the vice-chair. Estonian representatives will nominate the vice-chair as soon as possible.
10. Representatives of the participating countries expressed a gratitude to the organizers of the 23rd meeting of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN – the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language, and the National Land Service under the Ministry of Environment.

Maciej Zych

Chairperson of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN